WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Promoting rural industries

†901. SHRI ISAM SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote rural industries under any special scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government would make any changes in education policy in order to make the said scheme successful; and

(c) if so, the format thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) all over the country for promoting rural industries. Under this programme Capital subsidy in the form of margin money is provided to the beneficiaries for setting up labour intensive industries. The beneficiary is required to invest his own contribution of 10% of the project cost. For disadvantaged sections *viz.* SC/ST/Women/ Physically Handicapped/Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/institution and for hill, border and tribal areas, North-East Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, there is a higher margin money, grant. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and on a selective basis through Cooperative Banks and Private Sector Scheduled Commercial Banks. There is no minimum educational qualification for the scheme.

(b) Since the REGP scheme has been functioning very successfully over the years and has so far generated 22.58 lakh employment opportunities for rural artisans, the Government does not contemplate any change in the educational policy for the scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

Jobs for youth in villages

902. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.